

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

66624

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APPROVED BY:EUR:AAHARTMAN

EUR/SE:WLEAGLETON

S/S - MR. LUERS

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O R 222141Z MAR 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065473

EXDIS TOSEC 962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF CONGRESS AND US ARMS AID WITH
TURKISH SENATOR

REF: ANKARA 2239

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

1. I ARRANGED TO SEE MARCH 22 KAMRAN INAN, PROMINENT
SENATOR FROM JUSTICE PARTY. HIS PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUE,
RPP DEPUTY UNSAL, HAD LEFT WASHINGTON SUDDENLY MARCH 20 TO
RETURN TO ANKARA IN CONNECTION WITH CURRENT EFFORTS TO
RESOLVE TURKEY'S POLITICAL CRISIS.

2. THIS WEEK INAN HAS SEEN SEVERAL MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES
OF CONGRESS, BUT HAS BEEN CONCENTRATING ON SENATE--
PARTICULARLY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. HE IS SCHEDULED
TO MEET ADDITIONAL MEMBERS BEFORE LEAVING WASHINGTON MARCH

26. INAN SAID HE SEES CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE OF MORE
POSITIVE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE ON TURKISH AID, BUT FEARS
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MOVEMENT LACKS DYNAMISM AND LEADERSHIP FROM WITHIN CONGRESS

ITSELF. HE OBSERVED THAT SINCE TURKEY HAS NO LOBBY ON THE HILL, IT IS ONLY THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH CAN PUSH CONGRESS ALONG AND WONDERED WHETHER, GIVEN MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS ADMINISTRATION HAS TIME TO DEVOTE TO TURKISH AID.

3. I TOLD INAN THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT AND WILL NOT SLACKEN ITS EFFORTS AND INFORMED HIM THAT SENATOR MANSFIELD SAID YESTERDAY HE BELIEVES HE CAN GET THE SFRC TO REPORT A TURKISH AID BILL OUT NEXT WEEK. I DESCRIBED THE MANY MEETINGS I HAVE HAD ON THE HILL THIS WEEK AND MADE HIM AWARE THAT THE PRESIDENT CONTINUES TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT

4. INAN THOUGHT THAT IF SFRC COMMITTEE ACTUALLY VOTES BILL OUT NEXT WEEK, THIS WILL GAIN SOME ADDITIONAL TIME IN ANKARA (HE THOUGHT 2 OR 3 WEEKS), EVEN THOUGH FULL SENATE VOTE MIGHT NOT COME UNTIL LATER. HE SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY ARGUE IN TURKEY THAT COMMITTEE ACTION IS EVIDENCE THINGS ARE MOVING, BUT THAT MORE TIME WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE US LEGISLATIVE PROCESS CAN PLAY ITSELF OUT. INAN EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT TURKEY'S PATIENCE IS NOT LIMITLESS AND NOTED THAT WHATEVER NEW GOVERNMENT EMERGES FROM PRESENT CRISIS WILL COME UNDER INCREASED PRESSURE TO RETALIATE AGAINST US.

5. INAN WAS CONCERNED AT SUGGESTIONS IN US PRESS AND FROM SOME ON CAPITOL HILL THAT LACK OF TURKISH RETALIATION TO DATE (WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO TURKISH "DECENCY" AND REGARD FOR ALLIANCE) IS EVIDENCE THAT CONGRESSIONAL STRATEGY IS WORKING. INAN HAS BEEN AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZE TO CONGRESS, AS HE DID TO ME, THAT TURKS CAN MAKE NO CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS WHICH COULD BE CONSTRUED AS YIELDING TO AMERICAN PRESSURE. I MADE USUAL CASE THAT ADMINISTRATION HAS NEVER LINKED SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND CYPRUS AND THAT WE RECOGNIZE, AND REPEATEDLY EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS, EXTENT TO WHICH AID SUSPENSION HAS HAMPERED CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

6. COMMENT: INAN IS A LUCID, PERSUASIVE MAN WHO OBVIOUSLY CARES DEEPLY ABOUT TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH NATO AND CONFIDENTIAL

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THE US, BUT WHO SEES SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR TURKEY'S FUTURE POLITICAL AND DEFENSE ORIENTATION IF CONGRESS DOES NOT RESCIND AID SUSPENSION SOON. I THINK HIS CURRENT EFFORTS ON THE HILL ARE VERY USEFULLY COMPLEMENTING OUR OWN. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY POLICIES, TOSEC 962
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE065473
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/SE:HEKIRBY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750101-0656
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750324/aaaaavsd.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 ANKARA 2239
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION OF CONGRESS AND US ARMS AID WITH TURKISH SENATOR
TAGS: MASS, TU, (INAN, KARMAN)
To: JERUSALEM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006